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## The Parthenon, March 5, 2012

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MONDAY  
March 5, 2012

# THE PARTHENON

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MARCUS CONTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

**TOP LEFT:** Senior cheerleader Jillian Barnett fires up the crowd. **MIDDLE LEFT:** Junior forward Dennis Tinnon celebrates with teammate DeAndre Kane. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Senior guard Dago Pena dunks the ball. **RIGHT:** Marshall's Thundering Herd celebrate Saturday's win against Southern Miss. The team will begin the C-USA Tournament on Wednesday against Southern Methodist.

## *Herd seniors finish final game in Cam Henderson Center in winning fashion*

BY JARROD CLAY  
THE PARTHENON

On senior night, it was a junior who led the way for the Marshall men's basketball team Saturday afternoon.

Dennis Tinnon scored 22 points and snatched down nine rebounds — leading the Herd to a 79-75 victory over Southern Miss. Tinnon was clutch in the final stretch, making six free throws in the final moments to ice the game for Marshall.

In a game meant to honor the teams three seniors, Marshall head coach Tom Herrion said Tinnon was a “warrior” against Southern Miss.

“I think he’s the best offensive rebounder in a long time,” said Larry Eustachy, Southern Miss head coach. “These guys are good, and the judge of a really good coach is if your guys have gotten

better. This is not the same Marshall team we played at our place.

The Herd victory avenged an earlier loss to the Golden Eagles in Hattiesburg, Miss. Southern Miss finished the season ranked second in Conference USA and is all but guaranteed a spot in the NCAA tournament.

“That’s a great win, a great win,” said Tom Herrion, Marshall head coach. “I’m so proud of those kids, especially those three seniors. We beat a tremendous team. We did a lot of things well today — a lot of great things and a lot of good production from a lot of guys. This was a tremendous victory and a great way to close out the regular season in our building with our tremendous fans.”

The game was the final one in the Cam Henderson Center for three Marshall seniors, Damier Pitts, Shaquille Johnson and Dago

See MBB | Page 3



## COB dean receives award

THE PARTHENON

Chong Kim, dean of the Marshall University College of Business, received an Honorary West Virginian Award on Friday.

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin presented Kim with the award, and said Kim deserved the award for his contribution to the College of Business.

“This is a surprise, and I am very humbled by this award especially not being from West Virginia,” Chong said. “It is a high honor to receive this from the governor.”

Kim thanked his colleagues and faculty for their support during his time at the College of Business.

“I’m so grateful for my colleagues for their strong support, particularly my professors who have made things happen,” Kim said. “I am in debt to them. Without their support, this would not be possible.”

Tomblin is the only West

Virginian governor to have attended the Marshall University College of Business where he received a MBA in Health Care Management.

The award is given to individuals for outstanding achievement and service to the state of West Virginia and recognizes their accomplishments and contribution to West Virginia.

Chong said the decision to retire was hard, but he believes it is time.

He plans to travel to Korea, where he might possibly teach.

Chong joked about continuing to stay in West Virginia because of this award.

With the achievement of the AACSB reaccreditation earlier this year, Chong said he believes this is a good time to retire. He hopes the college continues to be successful in the future.

In 1983, Kim achieved tenure at the university after he moved to West Virginian in 1977.

## Governor visits School of Journalism

BY REBECCA STEPHENS  
THE PARTHENON

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin visited the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications to talk to student media during a press conference in the television studio Friday.

The press conference was an opportunity for students in the school of journalism to have an open Q&A session with the governor.

“Any time you get to talk to the governor, it’s a good thing,” said Corley Denison, dean of the school of journalism. “One of the reasons you want to be in journalism is because you get to talk to people who can shake public events, public policy — it’s a good time to talk to him. He’s been really busy with the legislature.”

Gov. Tomblin was on campus Friday to deliver an award to one of Marshall’s faculty members and decided to take time to talk to school

of journalism students.

“While I was here, I thought it would be nice to take this time to spend with the Marshall media,” Tomblin said.

During the press conference, Tomblin discussed what he is doing to ensure that college graduates will have jobs in the state of West Virginia.

“My whole theme of my tenure as governor has been more jobs and lower taxes,” Tomblin said. “One of the things we’re doing at the state level right now is being able to offer tax incentives for new graduates, out of our colleges to keep the young people here in West Virginia.”

Tomblin discussed other important issues such as the significance of young voters.

“I think it’s very important,” Tomblin said. “You know, it’s easy to sit around



MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

See TOMBLIN | Page 5

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin speaks to Marshall student media.





# Changes to affect student financial aid awards

THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University Office of Financial Aid is working to make students aware of the recently enacted Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012. This act includes an amendment to the Higher Education Act, which reduces the duration of a student's eligibility to receive a Pell Grant from 18

semesters (or its equivalent) to 12 semesters (or its equivalent). A Pell Grant is a type of aid money the federal government provide to students who need it to pay for college. Federal Pell Grants are limited to students with financial need who have not earned their first bachelor's degree in undergraduate or who are not enrolled in

certain post-baccalaureate programs through participating institutions. Kathy Bialk, director of student financial assistance in the office of financial aid, said she was not thrilled about the change because of students who may be affected by this. "All that we can do is help bring awareness to the students," Bialk said. This change will go into

effect on July 1. The changes being made might only affect a few students at Marshall. Bialk said more than 40 percent of full-time students at Marshall are Pell Grant recipients. She said this may seem like a large statistic, but the end result may be much less. "We expect very few of our students will be affected by this regulatory

change," Bialk said. "Nevertheless, we want (students) to be aware of the change in rules and to make sure (students) understand the consequences of taking an excessive number of courses to complete your undergraduate degree." Bialk said the office of financial aid does not have any way of knowing exactly which students will be affected by the change.

Bialk said the United States Department of Education will know which students would be affected. It will inform students who fall into the category of the new changes being made. "When we find out which students will be affected by this change, we will work very hard and do our best to help those students finish their degree," Bialk said.

# Program to ease campus parking problems

SHANE ARRINGTON  
THE PARTHENON

Finding places to park near campus has evolved into a troublesome issue for students this semester, especially as the new parking garage construction has begun. There are two computer science students working on a program to make parking less of a luxury. "Spotetection is a simple, cost-effective, affordable and easy to use parking spot detection system," said Tim Hall, on of the creators of the program. "What it does is take a webcam video feed of the parking lot. It then takes snap shots of that video feed, runs it through an edge detection algorithm used to differentiate between empty and occupied parking spots." Hall and project partner Nitish Garg have worked on this project for months. While officially starting the beginning of the Fall 2011 semester, the discussion began the summer before. Garg said he was looking for something to work on for his senior project and when Hall, who is also his friend and roommate, mentioned Spotetection, he said

he thought it sounded like a good idea. "I was looking for a new project and this sounded challenging to me," Garg said. "I knew this would have me working with languages and software that I'd never worked with before, and this would be a good way to introduce me to those. Tim and I spent our summer discussing how this was going to work out. We didn't know how we were going to do it, but we knew it'd be challenging so we decided to take it on." The project had some roadblocks in the beginning, Hall and Garg said as they shared a laugh over memories of getting Spotetection up and running. They both said the obstacles at the beginning slowed them down some, but once they worked out some key issues, they leaped forward. "The main problem was the software we were using at first didn't do what we needed it to do," Hall said. "Now we're using new software that works. What it does is take the video feed from the parking lot and snaps still images at specific intervals. Then those images go into our image-processing algorithm that turns the



SHANE ARRINGTON | THE PARTHENON

Senior computer science majors Tim Hall and Nitish Garg develop Spotetection, a program that detects parking spots. Parking spots have been more difficult to find this semester due to the construction of the new parking garage adjacent to the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

actual image into a graphical representation. "We do this because there is some worry over privacy with this," Hall said.

"You don't want license plates or even cop cars being viewed by everyone. By converting the image into a graphical representation

that eliminates that worry." Now that the project is up and running, the main roadblock is the end of the school year. As seniors Hall and

Garg need to have this project completed by April. Garg said while in August this

See PARKING | Page 5

# Career service to host annual Career Expo

BY MARISSA DEMARIA  
THE PARTHENON

More than 75 employers are planning to partake in an annual Career Expo hosted by Career Services on Marshall University's campus. The career services staff continues to serve as a liaison to the job market by bringing in recruiters to share information about part-time, full-time and internship positions at the expo. "Students who seriously network with the employers at the Expo often make connections that lead to interviews," said Debby Stoler, assistant director of

development and outreach for Career Services said. "At that point, it is up to the student to sell themselves and their skills." Among the employers planning to attend, are Fortune 500 companies, such as Kroger Mid-Atlantic, PepsiCo and Walmart. Stoler said the Career Expo provides relevant and serious career and internship opportunities for students and graduates. Many of the same companies have consistently committed to the expo each year, showing that employers are successful in hiring Marshall students and graduates.

"The Career Expo is really what you make it," said April Biser, graduate assistant for Career Services. "You are not necessarily going to be handed a job just for attending. It requires preparation such as researching attending companies and reviewing your resume. At the event, you have to initiate conversations with employers so they know who you are." Biser said despite the preparation involved, it is definitely worth attending because it allows you to get your name out there and network with potential employers.

The Career Expo has been hosted by Career Services for more than 25 years. Stoler said the event usually brings in between 400 and 500 students and graduates. While she thinks this is a good number, she said she recognizes the segment of students that this opportunity does not reach. "There are so many students who miss out on this great opportunity to make that first contact with more than 75 companies, all in one place, who are there especially to talk to them," Stoler said. "Most of the students

See CAREER | Page 5

# Professor to 'skim' through graphic novel as part of Women's History Month

THE PARTHENON

A Marshall University English professor will lead a graphic book discussion Monday. Michael Householder will conduct a discussion revolving around the Canadian graphic novel "Skim," a coming of age story about a 16-year-old Toronto girl. It is this semester's

reading for the Women's Studies Book Club. Householder said "Skim" describes issues young women face. "She confronts many of the problems girls in society face: Sexuality, eating disorders, depression, making friends, falling in love, falling out of love," Householder said. Householder said "Skim"

was chosen because it would have a wide appeal. "It's really not just limited to women's issues," Householder said. "It's relevant to everyone - girls and boys, men and women of all races and ethnicities." Householder said "Skim" fits into Marshall's Women's History Month events because it breaks the perception that

graphic novels only appeal to men. "Sometimes, the world of comics is thought of as a male world - a boy's world," Householder said. "Girls and women read comic books and graphic novels and they also write and illustrate them too." The discussion will be at 7 p.m. Monday at the Harless Media Center.

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# SPORTS

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## Herd baseball drops two against Wake Forest

CAITIE SMITH  
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University baseball team took cues from the strange winter weather this weekend.

Both were sporadic and unpredictable.

The Thundering Herd played a pair of two-game sets against the Eastern Michigan Eagles and the Wake Forest Demon Deacons, winning only one of the four contests.

In game one, the Herd took an early 5-0 lead, hitting home runs in each of the first three innings. Nathan Gomez and Alfredo Brito hit back-to-back homers, and starter Aaron Blair threw five complete innings, striking out three.

It wasn't until late, however, that the wheels came off for Marshall. Freshman Lance Elder gave up three runs in relief of Blair and earned the loss.

The Herd's bright spot of the day was catcher Thor Meeks, who finished 4-for-4 at the plate.

"Throughout the week, I worked hard on my timing

and the consistency of my swing," Meeks said. "That, more than anything, helped me."

The Herd did manage to get its revenge on Saturday, beating the Eagles 6-3 on a RBI double in the eighth from Gray Stafford.

"I knew, going in, I had to keep my plate approach but gain confidence in my swing," Stafford said.

Joe Church threw 1 1/3 innings of relief, striking out one and earning the win for the Herd.

Marshall failed to maintain momentum in its second game of the day, falling to Wake Forest 6-1. Mike Mason got roughed up for the first time this season giving up six earned runs on nine hits.

The Thundering Herd offense did not fare much better, managing only five hits while stranding five runners on base.

The change on the calendar did not translate into a change on the field as Marshall continued its struggles into Sunday. Wake Forest

See **BASEBALL** | Page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF HERDZONE

**Off to the races.** Marshall freshman infielder Sergio Leon follows the ball off the bat during the Herd's Feb. 18 loss to Canisius. Leon has started all 11 games for the Herd and is tied for the team lead in at-bats with 44. Marshall's two losses to Wake Forest to conclude the weekend pushed the squad to a 4-7 overall record for the season.

### MBB Continued from Page 2

Pena all of whom scored in double figures en route to the victory.

"That was a great one to leave with," said Marshall senior guard Shaquille Johnson. "The crowd was good, we came out and played good tonight and we was able to just come out and execute."

The Thundering Herd got out of the gate hot shooting 52 percent from the field in the first half and holding Southern Miss to just 37 percent.

Marshall cooled off in the second, and the Golden Eagles climb back into the game, but the Herd was able to make clutch free throws

for one of the few times this season. DeAndre Kane said the crowd played a major role in the Herd victory.

"Our crowd was great," said Marshall sophomore guard DeAndre Kane. "For it to only have been five or six thousand it was loud, and in close games like that you got to get the crowd involved."

Southern Miss came into the game shooting 75 percent from the free throw line as a team, but could only manage 54 percent from the charity stripe in the Henderson Center.

"When we've lost its been at UTEP and here, and we've missed free throws because it's intimidating," Eustachy said. "The fans here are terrific; it's a great set up. Coach here has done a great

job and I think they are just getting started, and they can really go on a roll wherever they end up."

Prior to Saturday, Herrion admitted to being worried about how his team would respond coming off a loss to ECU. Following the loss the Herd took a nine hour bus ride back to Huntington, and got back to practice just hours after getting off the bus.

"These kids seize to amaze me," Herrion said. "I give these kids and my staff a lot of credit. We haven't relented all season."

The victory improves the Herd to 18-12 (9-7 C-USA) and locked up the sixth seed for the conference tournament. Shaquille Johnson said, even though the

team has had its struggles, they have never lost their confidence.

"We might have dropped a few in the season and had some ups and downs, but we never lost our confidence," Johnson said. "We're a very confident team, and we're just trying to get our swag back and get five straight."

The Herd will travel to Memphis, TN for the Conference USA Tournament Tuesday before opening up play against the eleventh seeded Southern Methodist on Wednesday.

"Our season has been up and down," Kane said. "Nobody's handed us nothing. Nobody's felt sorry for us, so

from here on out we have to win five straight and go give it all we've got."

Marshall and SMU will tip off at 6:30 p.m. inside the FedEx Forum in the first round of the Conference USA tournament.

Jarrod Clay can be contacted at clay105@live.marshall.edu.



MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

**One on one.** Marshall's Dennis Tinnon squares off for the opening tip against Southern Miss senior Maurice Bolden in Saturday's matchup at the Cam Henderson Center. The Herd took the contest 79-75.

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# OPINION

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## THE PARTHENON

### ABOUT US

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Mondays through Fridays during the regular semesters, and weekly Thursdays during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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### THE FIRST AMENDMENT

**The Constitution of the United States of America**

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

### ONLINE POLL

Visit us at  
*marshallparthenon.com*  
to let us know *what you think.*

### What is your favorite book?

- George Orwell, "1984"
- John Steinbeck, "The Grapes of Wrath"
- F. Scotts Fitzgerald, "The Great Gatsby"
- Harper Lee, "To Kill a Mockingbird"
- J.D. Salinger, "Catcher in the Rye"
- Jack Kerouac, "On the Road"
- I don't read

#### EDITORIAL

## Thought, time should be given to the recent victims of tornadoes

Over the weekend, 38 people were killed in a series of 97 tornadoes that touched ground in the Midwest, South and Appalachian regions. Some of the areas in the Midwest had been hit earlier in the week by a separate series of tornadoes, left unprepared for the coming ones that occurred over the weekend, they were hit again. According to MSNBC, there were 20 deaths in Kentucky, 12 in Indiana, three in Ohio and one in both Georgia and Alabama.

Although West Virginia only retained some flood damage in Marion and Wayne counties it was not far off of the map of destruction that hit eastern Kentucky and southern Ohio. It is important that we remember these deaths and not allow ourselves to forget what occurred over the weekend. These people have been left within nothing and are now going to begin the process of rebuilding both their lives and their communities.

As a predominantly impoverished area, the areas touched by the tornado in Kentucky and southern Ohio

are going to have a long road ahead of them. Let us hope the federal government is able to provide adequate aid to the areas that have been struck. The response thus far has been fantastic. But these people are going to need more than reactionary assistance in the months and years to come. They are going to need donations, volunteers and school districts willing to take the children left without a school in, food, water, comfort and a sense of community. These things do not recognize party lines. They are not Democrat or Republican in their sentiment. They are human.

As the race for the next presidential election is coming into full swing, it is easy to see everything as red or blue — conservative or liberal. Disasters like what has hit the South and Midwest should remind us we are a still a people, rather than a country that is factionalized into hundreds of different parties. If each of us can lend a hand to those suffering from the devastation of the tornadoes, we should.

#### POLITICAL CARTOON | PATRICK WEBB

Last home game, senior night, win against Southern Miss...



#### COLUMN

## Continue considering race in college admission

**BY KAYLA OLIVER**  
DAILY TEXAN, U. TEXAS VIA UWIRE

This fall the Supreme Court will return to an issue it last discussed in 2003: affirmative action in university admissions. Fisher v. The University of Texas at Austin involves a white student who, after being denied admission, claimed that the university's consideration of race in the admissions process violated her civil and constitutional rights. Although the use of affirmative action does imply preferential admission of minority students in some cases, the long-term social benefits of affirmative action policies outweigh isolated individual grievances.

Since the popularization of affirmative action policies in the 1960s, the Supreme Court has set a number of precedents in similar cases. In the late 1970s, the court ruled in Regents of the University of California v. Bakke that while race may be considered in admissions, the use of a strict racial quota

system violates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. In the 2003 case Grutter v. Bollinger, the Supreme Court upheld the use of race as one of the factors that universities may consider when making admissions decisions.

Fisher supporters contest the ruling in Grutter v. Bollinger and argue that affirmative action policies lead to "reverse discrimination" in which white applicants are rejected in favor of minority students with lower grades or test scores.

This position fails to account for the widespread structural disadvantages faced by many minority students. From inadequate schools to discrimination and financial barriers, many minority students face a range of obstacles that are often overlooked simply because they are so strongly embedded in the social structure. Recent research has identified a number of problems with relying on entrance exam scores to determine an applicant's suitability.

Advocates of "financial affirmative action" push for color-blind consideration of economic disadvantages in university admissions. Promising students from struggling families would be awarded admission and financial aid regardless of their race. This position seems like a reasonable way to help disadvantaged students while transcending racial categorization. However, as much as we would like to believe that race is no longer a determining factor in American society, the financial disparities between races prove that it is.

Economic disadvantage and race are not independent variables and shouldn't be considered as such. For now, we must continue considering race in college admissions in order to narrow those economic gaps.

The on-campus diversity fostered by affirmative action also encourages students of different races to get to know each other and develop a broader world view. Universities understand the importance of racial and cultural diversity

to enhancing their students' learning experience, and affirmative action policies allow admissions officers to ensure that each incoming class has a fair representation of racial groups.

College Prowler, a student-based directory of colleges and universities throughout the country, gives UT an A for diversity in contrast to Texas Tech's B- and Texas A&M's C+. Such rankings reflect favorably upon the University's efforts to create an inclusive on-campus atmosphere.

Affirmative action policies such as the one in place at UT benefit society by extending opportunities for higher education and slowly bridging the socioeconomic gaps between races. In deciding Fisher v. The University of Texas at Austin, the Supreme Court should take into account the far-reaching implications that race still carries in America as well as the long-term benefits that affirmative action policies confer upon society and the way in which it is structured.

## Santorum should keep his religious beliefs away from politics

**BY FAHEEM YOUNUS**  
THE BALTIMORE SUN (MCT)

Watching Rick Santorum rise in the polls by positioning himself as the real Christian presidential candidate is like watching the sequel of a horror movie — one I lived through in the 1980s while growing up in Pakistan. There, another religious zealot, Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq, played the lead role of the real Muslim.

The plot went like this: The clerics called for candidates with "true" Muslim values, the masses demanded a "Muslim candidate for a Muslim state," the leaders proved their "Muslimness" by quoting scripture and calling others lesser Muslims, and the candidate who was able to appease the clergy privately and please the masses publicly held on to power.

A similar fusion of church and candidate is apparent in this Republican primary season, where nearly every Republican candidate — except Ron Paul, who would not and Mitt Romney, who could not — has been a rabble-rouser, playing the religion card to rally the conservative Christian base.

Since I have seen a secular country morphing into a theocracy at the hands of a religious fanatic, trust me when I tell you: The aggressive display of theology in our political discourse by the Republican Party in general and Rick Santorum in particular is chipping away at the Jeffersonian wall of separation between church and state.

While Article Six of the United States Constitution provides that "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any

U.S. Office or public Trust," such voter preferences become a de facto religious test for the candidate. Rick Santorum has no plans to fail that test.

As Santorum's rise to the top of the GOP field demonstrates, this "I-am-the-real-religious-candidate" strategy works.

To argue that candidates like Michele Bachmann, Rick Perry and Herman Cain lost despite their public displays of Christianity, and therefore we need not worry about Mr. Santorum, would be a fatal error of judgment. It's not only about winning; it's also about changing the norms of political discourse between voters and candidates. Over the past 50 years, Pakistan's religious parties have never won more than 12 percent of the vote. But playing the religion card publicly has conditioned the politicians to declare their "Muslimness" and conditioned the masses to the point that a political rally now sounds like a mosque sermon.

So let's demand a separation between church and candidate. Mr. Santorum, don't talk about who belongs to which "stripe of Christianity"; embrace all the stripes, colors and stars. Don't hint about who is the real Christian candidate; instead, be the real American candidate.

For those who see nothing wrong with this public amalgamation of church and candidate, please consider viewing the horrors of the pseudo-Islamization of Pakistan — the once secular and currently sixth-most-populous country in the world. Chances are, you would say no to a sequel.





PHOTOS BY RICK HAYE

Seniors Dago Pena (LEFT), Damier Pitts (MIDDLE) and Shaquille Johnson (RIGHT) are honored prior to Saturday’s game against South Miss. The Herd Pulled out a 79-75 victory over the Golden Eagles to give the three seniors a win in their final regular season game at the Cam Henderson Center. Pena, Pitts and Johnson all scored double figures during the game. Pena hit back-to-back three pointers late in the second half and finished with 10 points, four rebounds and two assists. Pitts recorded 13 points, a season-high six rebounds and four assists. Johnson recorded 13 points, six rebounds and five assists.

## BASEBALL

Continued from Page 3

no-hit the Herd and earned a victory 5-1. The single run was scored when John Gandolfo got aboard after being hit by a pitch and scored off

Nathan Gomez’s sacrifice fly. Josh King threw 4 1/3 innings giving, up three runs off five hits. Failing to get any offense going against the Demon Deacons, the veteran Meeks discussed where he thought his team should be.

“We need to stop beating ourselves,” Meeks said. “We have honestly not played a team this year that is better than us, but we are beating ourselves each game we lose.” With a roster full of both freshmen and sophomores, the early season struggles

for Marshall might be contributed to some growing pains. Despite the weekend setback, however, Meeks said he thinks the younger players are already showing flashes of a bright future. “It’s very obvious that

our pitching staff is young and have a lot of game experience they need to get under their belt,” Meeks said. “The good thing about the younger guys is the confidence they bring to the table. They have no fear of failing. They’re going

to be great.” The Herd now holds a record of 4-7. Marshall will travel to Lexington Wednesday to take on the University of Kentucky. Caitie Smith can be contacted at [Smith1650@marshall.edu](mailto:Smith1650@marshall.edu).

## LOCAL

Continued from Page 6

wanted everything, every condiment we have — he wanted on that hot dog, and that’s what formed our Junkyard Dog.” The BS Rooster is a creation named after Sharie’s son, using his initials, Brandon Swallow. “It’s really interesting because a lot of people will immediately put the BS to something else, and they will not say it,” Sharie said. “Sometimes they just call it the Hen House

so I like to tell them that it is my son’s name.” In addition to hot dogs, there are garlic ranch fries, chicken nuggets, mac wedges and spicy goat wings. “I’ve heard so many people ask about our Goat Wings thinking they are really from goats,” Sonny said. “We had a goat for several years and because we had a goat, we named them goat wings.” Vegetarians can also find food to eat from the menu. “People who are vegan

and vegetarian know they can come here and eat with their families because we are very conscious of them,” Sharie said. “When people order a veggie dog, we check to see if they are actually vegetarian because if they are, we want to have our kitchen respect that by not putting their food on the same grill as the meat. We put a separate pan on the burner so there is no cross-contamination for them.” Since the opening of Hillbilly Hot Dogs, the

restaurant was named no. 15 of 101 “Tastiest Places to Chowdown” on the Travel Channel and was host to Food Network chef, Guy Fieri, as he featured the restaurant on “Diners, Drive-ins and Dives.” “It was truly our customer base that got us on ‘Diners, Drive-ins and Dives,’” Sharie said. “They all wrote letters about us. The production company called and told us they were literally inundated with emails, letters and faxes from our customer base. We were

so honored to have had these opportunities. Even if Food Network had not selected us, it was very humbling to know that people took the time to send in letters about us to them.” Since the show aired, people from all over the country and the world have come to the restaurant to experience the food and hospitality. “It’s amazing,” Sonny said. “Everyday people tell us they have seen us on the Travel Channel or Food Network or that they

traveled to come here. We’ve even had people here from China. Since the show is international now, everyone sees it. It is humbling.” “I am just so thankful that I get to meet these people from all different walks of life, from all over the United States and the world,” Sharie said. “I’m thinking what a blessing for me because they bring a whole lot to our lives.” Chelsie Schuldies can be contacted at [schuldies@marshall.edu](mailto:schuldies@marshall.edu).

## TOMBLIN

Continued from Page 1

and complain about the shape of the country, but if you don’t take the five or 10 minutes to go vote, and that’s a privilege you have, then you have little room to complain. I would just encourage everyone to get registered to make sure they cast their vote in this

upcoming primary and general election.” Another topic of discussion during the press conference was recent mine safety legislation. Tomblin said his mine safety bill puts stricter penalties on people who notify miners that inspectors are on the way, as well as require better detection for methane gas. “I think the mine safety

legislation I proposed brings West Virginia a lot closer to making our mines a lot safer than what they have been,” Tomblin said. “I think it does stiffen the safety laws in our state a great deal.” Tomblin also made an appearance on “Up Late with Jamie LoFiego” during his visit to the School of Journalism. Tomblin talked about

how he, his wife and their son have all attended Marshall, job opportunities in the state, campaigning for election and what a great journalism program he thinks Marshall has — as it has been nationally recognized. “Keep up the good work,” Tomblin said. Rebecca Stephens can be contacted at [stephens107@marshall.edu](mailto:stephens107@marshall.edu).

## PARKING

Continued from Page 2

would have seemed frightening, the project has helped changed the way he views things. “Now we aren’t scared, just frustrated,” Garg said. “This project has taught us we can do anything — if other people can, so can we. There

is no more questioning of capabilities, it’s simply what can I do to make this work. I try to think of it like there’s no way out so I force myself to find solutions.” Hall said he trusts he and Garg can get this done. He trusts in their abilities and also the mentorship of their project adviser. “Dr. Wahjudi really helped

us here — with the idea, the algorithm. His help has been invaluable,” Hall said. “We’re very lucky to have him teaching here. It was really challenging at first, because of the software incompatibility issues, and it’s still challenging now but in a different way. It’s hard finding the time to get together and work on the program and

run tests, but we will do it.” Right now, the program only runs on a Linux based operating system, but Hall and Garg said once the program is completed manipulating it to run on Windows and Mac operating systems won’t be a problem. Shane Arrington can be contacted at [arrington16@marshall.edu](mailto:arrington16@marshall.edu).

## CAREER

Continued from Page 2

who attend feel that they have made at least a few good contacts and some already have interviews set up when they leave the expo.” Denise Hogsett, director of Career Services, said students are encouraged to dress professionally

and come prepared with multiple copies of their resumes. Hogsett said even if students are not looking for a job, attending the expo presents an excellent networking opportunity. Stoler said the number one complaint from employers is that students do not come dressed in professional attire and that at least khakis and nice shirt

should be worn. Those seeking full-time career employment should wear more professional attire such as suits: This goes for both men and women. “The job market is extremely competitive and volatile these days, and students should take advantage of every opportunity to market themselves to potential employers,” Stoler

said. “To be able to talk to this many companies at one time who are hiring now is a rare opportunity and one that students should take advantage of.” The Career Expo will take place from 10 a.m. through 2 p.m. March 7 in the Memorial Student Center. Marissa DeMaria can be contacted at [demaria3@marshall.edu](mailto:demaria3@marshall.edu).

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MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2012 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

# A local affair

A series on Huntington businesses



KELSEY THOMAS | THE PARTHENON

**1.** Chris Davidson, of Indianapolis, bites into a “Home Wrecker,” Hillbilly Hot Dogs’ 15-inch hot dog. Davidson was not aiming for a specific time, though the record for finishing a “Home Wrecker” stands at just under three minutes.

**2.** Owners Sonny and Sharie Knight sit outside of the original Hillbilly Hot Dogs location in Lesage, W.Va. The bus was donated by a Guyandotte church and is used as dining space.

**3.** A second location on Third Avenue in Huntington features the same “hillbilly theme.” There is another Hillbilly Hot Dogs in Chesapeake, Ohio.

**4.** Stanley Porter, of Lavalette, W.Va., checks out the restaurant’s decorations. Owner Sonny Knight said 75 percent of the decor has been donated by customers.

**5.** Customers dine in one of two buses, covered in graffiti of past visitors, at the Hillbilly Hot Dogs in Lesage, W.Va. The owners will add more buses to their collection after three were willing to them by a local patron.

## Hillbilly Hot Dogs serves up a unique experience

BY CHELSIE SCHULDIES  
THE PARTHENON

Sonny the “Weenie Man” and Sharie his “Weenie Wife” boast that Hillbilly Hot Dogs have got the weenies.

Hillbilly Hot Dogs opened in Lesage, W.Va. on Sept. 6, 1999. When building the first weenie stand, Sharie Knight said they originally intended to name the restaurant Hillbilly Hamburgers. After securing the name, complications arose, and the Knights decided to change the name to Hillbilly Hot Dogs. Thus, the weenie legacy was born.

“As Sonny was building the weenie stand, I made all these different hot dogs that I had made for my kids,” Sharie said. “I had been a single mom raising three kids so I became very creative. I told Sonny to just try these hot dogs and see how he liked them. He told me if we could just get people to try something different, we’d have a winner.”

Sharie said their first menu only had nine hot dogs, including the West Virginia Dog, Snuffy Dog, Egg Dog, Pizza Dog and the Taco Dog. These hot dogs were considered the “out there” dogs of the time.

Sonny said some people were scared to try the Egg Dog when they first added it to the menu.

“When you say Egg Dog, people sometimes go ‘yuck,’” Sonny said. “I always say ‘well, do you like eggs, and do you like beef weenies?’ If they say ‘yeah,’ then there you go. You put eggs and beef together with a little bit of ketchup and nacho cheese, and that is all it takes.”

If an Egg Dog is not appealing, Sonny said there are plenty of others from which to choose.

“Our menu really hits everybody’s palette,” Sonny said. “With everything we have on the menu, somebody is going to like something. For instance, if you like barbeque, we have the Hound Dog.”

When it comes to narrowing down their most unusual dog, the Knights said that is not a simple task.

“People ask me that question all the time, what our most unusual dog is,” Sharie said. “The thing I say is, ‘are we a traditional eater or a nontraditional eater? Do you like spice or no spice?’ This way we can divide up the different hot dogs to see what works for them.”

“If they would like to take a walk on the wild side but with no spice, then I would suggest the Hound Dog and the Pizza Dog – it is phenomenal,” Sharie said. “We can even make a Taco Dog without the jalapenos if they wanted something with no spice but different. There are so many variations we have come up with.”

When it comes to nontraditional hot dogs, Sharie’s favorite dog is the Taco Dog, and Sonny likes the Out Wayne and Rahall’s Red Hot Weenie.

The Knights now offer customers the opportunity to go on their website and build a weenie. This was the first year they put weenies posted from the website on the menu with the name of the creator.

Not only do the Knights have to create a variety of hot dogs, they also have to come up with various names for the weenies.

“Some of the dogs are connected with people,” Sharie Knight said. “Chuck’s Junkyard is someone who is a customer of ours who

See LOCAL | Page 5

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